

women of our armed forces, BG Sanders and his family have repeatedly sacrificed time together for extended periods to answer the call to serve his country.

Commissioned in May 1980 through the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps at Sam Houston State University, BG Sanders began his military career with Texas Army National Guard. His subsequent duties included various tactical, operational and strategic assignments, including commands of a combat engineer company, battalion and brigade. He was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Stabilization Force (SFOR) 7 and on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2004. Most recently, he was deployed to Iraq with his division headquarters where he assumed responsibilities to establish the U.S. Consulate in Basrah; assess, plan and build-out oil and gas infrastructure; and establish logistical conditions for the withdrawal of U.S. Forces from Iraq. BG Sanders has served honorably through each of his assignments and deployments and has received the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal among additional commendation and service medals.

It is due to the selfless actions and sacrifices of the men and women like BG Sanders that we enjoy the quality of life and freedoms that are the envy of nations around the world. I am honored for the privilege to represent Brigadier General Stephen G. Sanders in the United States Congress. I, along with his family, friends, citizens and his safe return.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPANISH
AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR A
BETTER COMMUNITY'S 45TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Spanish American Committee for a Better Community, an organization that has been addressing the most pressing issues of the Hispanic/Latino community living in Cleveland since 1966. It is celebrating its 45th anniversary on November 18, 2011.

The Spanish American Committee for a Better Community is the oldest and largest Hispanic human services organization in Ohio and serves more than 5,500 people annually. Its vision is to continuously enhance programs and services designed to foster self-sufficiency, career readiness, and wealth creation for individuals, children, and families, with a goal of creating socioeconomic stability in the community and in the entire Northeast Ohio region. It offers programming in several areas including family support, early childhood enrichment, educational training, home ownership counseling and employment training.

The success achieved by the Spanish American Committee is acknowledged by outside organizations. The United Way recognizes the Spanish American Committee as a partnering agency. The Spanish American Committee is a national affiliate member of the National Council of La Raza. Additionally, the United States of America's Department of Housing and Urban Development has certified the Spanish American Committee as a housing council site.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Spanish American Committee for a Better Community as they celebrate 45 years of community assistance.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON EMPLOYMENT
AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT
OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the National Commission on Employment and Economic Security Act of 2011.

This legislation is a necessary and vital investment for our nation's workforce and their families. It will establish a national commission to examine issues of economic and psychological insecurity within our workforce that have been caused by employment displacement. Further, it will propose solutions, including recommendations for legislative and administrative action, to Congress and the President.

Since the recession began in December 2007, more than 5.1 million jobs have been lost. In October 2011, the unemployment rate remains firm at 9 percent, and it is much higher in many states like Florida, at 10.6 percent, and it has topped 11 percent in Michigan, California, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia.

Over the past year, unemployment rates have increased in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The scope of the economic downturn is so large that its impact is felt virtually everywhere along the economic spectrum.

While Americans lose their jobs and their incomes shrink, too often, they face the loss of their family's health insurance and, subsequent to the loss of income, even their housing. According to an American Psychological Association September 2010 report, money (76 percent), work (70 percent) and the economy (65 percent) remain the most frequently cited sources of stress for Americans. Perhaps even more disturbing, calls to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline have increased by more than 72 percent from 2007 to 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the mental health of the American worker will be integral on the road to economic recovery. Congress must face this problem head on and help the very people who are facing unemployment, loss of health insurance, home foreclosure, stress, increased violence, and depression. It is time that we create this Commission and get our nation back on track.

I believe that we have a responsibility to ensure the greatest possible assistance to our nation's workforce, whose commitment to economic participation has been a defining feature of the cultural fabric of our country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPT-
TION DAY/MONTH NOVEMBER 18,
2011

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize November 19, 2011 as National Adoption Day, which celebrates adoptive families who have opened their homes to children placed in foster care. Today, states, communities, public and private organizations, businesses, families, and individuals come together to increase awareness of children in need of permanent homes and families.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are over 463,000 children living in foster care. These children have been placed in homes on the account of the physical, sexual and emotional abuse they have endured with their biological caretaker. My state of California currently has the largest foster care population with the number of youths in foster care tripling since 1981. These children deserve to grow up in a loving home that is safe, happy, and most importantly one they can call their own.

Since the first major effort to bring awareness to the need of adoptive families, which was initiated by former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis and later proclaimed a month in November 1995 by President William J. Clinton, nearly 50,000 children in the system have been adopted yearly. American families have opened their homes to these children and provided resources and opportunities that allowed them to have a chance of claiming the American Dream.

Unfortunately out of the 463,000 children living in foster care, about 107,000 are available for adoption. 65% of children who are not placed in a permanent home emancipate themselves from the system often left unemployed, without a place to live and resorting to homeless shelters. Less than 3 percent go on to college and emancipated females end up four times more likely to receive public assistance compared to the overall population of the United States.

Measures by the government have been implemented to increase the adoption rate and make the process of adoption easier for families who seek to adopt. The Affordable Care Act increases and improves the Adoption Tax Credit. It allows the process of adoption to be accessible and affordable for families who want to nurture, care, uplift and open their home to a child. States can also receive incentives for increasing adoptions of children adopted from foster care. A project by the Department of Health and Human Services, AdoptUsKids, offers support to States and even tribes and territories to recruit adoptive parents. The project also provides assistance and help to families considering adoption or those who have begun the process.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we continue to create more programs, events and activities that will enlighten citizens of the United States on stories of children successfully placed in permanent homes, debunk myths about the process and acknowledge the thousands of children who could potentially become a part of these statistics. Through these efforts we can increase the rate of adoption, decrease the rate of homelessness among the youths in